

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 FEA-01 AGRE-00 CEA-01 CIAE-00
COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FRB-03 H-01 INR-07 INT-05
L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 EPG-02 AID-05
SS-15 STR-04 ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02
OMB-01 /101 W
-----039963 230328Z /20

R 221803Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1016
ALL EC CAPITALS
USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 08570

USEEC

PASS STR FOR AMB STRAUSS, GENEVA FOR MTN, PARIS ALSO FOR
OECD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ETRD, EEC

SUBJECT: MTN

1. SIR ROY DENMAN CALLED ME IN LATE JULY 22 TO BRIEF ME
ON COMMITTEE 113 DISCUSSIONS OF MTN. HE SAID HE COULD SUM
UP RESULTS OF DAY'S MEETING IN THREE POINTS.

2. FIRST, THERE WAS POSITIVE AND UNANIMOUS SUPPORT BY THE
NINE FOR THE IDEA OF A SPEEDUP OF THE NEGOTIATINGS WITH
EVERYING TO BE ON THE TABLE BY JAN 15 NEXT.

3. SECOND, IT WAS APPARENT FROM THE DISCUSSIONS, PARTI-
CULARLY TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THIRD COUNTRY REACTIONS IN
GENEVA THIS PAST WEEK TO US/EC MOVES IN GROUP AGRICULTURE,
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THAT A MORE DETAILED TIMETABLE WOULD HAVE BEEN DANGEROUS.

4. THIRD, THERE WAS GENERAL SUPPORT FOR THE IDEA OF MOD-
EST INDUSTRIAL TARIFF CUTS COUPLED WITH NO EXCEPTIONS,
I.E., NO INITIAL EXCEPTIONS. THE MEMBER STATES ENDORSED
THIS GENERAL IDEA BECAUSE THE NEW TIMETABLE WOULD NOT
PERMIT ELABORATION OF AN EXCEPTIONS LIST AND BECAUSE IN

PRESENT ECONOMIC CIRCUMSTANCES THE INEVITABLE RESULT OF AN EXCEPTIONS EXERCISE IN THE COMMUNITY WOULD BE A LONG LIST. I WAS TOLD THAT ONE MEMBER STATE REPRESENTATIVE SAID THAT AN EXCEPTIONS EXERCISE NOW WOULD PRODUCE "A TELEPHONE DIRECTORY."

5. RAYMOND PHAN VAN PHI INTERVENED TO SAY THERE HAD ALSO BEEN MEMBER STATE EMPHASIS ON THE NEED FOR HARMONIZATION IN TWO SENSES. ONE THAT HARMONIZATION COULD NOT BE ACHIEVED IF OTHER COUNTRIES PUT HIGH TARIFF ITEMS, FOR EXAMPLE, WOOL TEXTILES, ON THEIR EXCEPTION LISTS, AND ALSO IN THE SENSE THAT THE TARIFF FORMULA SHOULD PROVIDE FOR SOME TARIFF HARMONIZATION.

6. I FENCED A BIT WITH SIR ROY OVER HIS THIRD POINT AND CONFIRMED IN THE PROCESS THAT THE COMMISSION DID NOT TALK ABOUT A SPECIFIC CHANGE IN THE COMMUNITY TARIFF FORMULA STILL ON THE TABLE IN GENEVA. HE DEFINED A MODEST CUT AS MEANING IN THE RANGE OF TWENTY-FIVE PERCENT TO THIRTY PERCENT OR AT THE LOWER END OF THE COMMISSION'S NEGOTIATING MANDATE.

7. I ASKED WHAT COMMISSION INTENTIONS WERE FOR THE COUNCIL MEETING NEXT WEEK AND ABOUT THE SIGNIFICANCE OF PRESS REPORTS REPORTING A CONFIDENTIAL COMMISSION MEMORANDUM INDICATING "THERE THERE IS PROBABLY A GREATER DANGER NOW CONFIDENTIAL

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THAT THE US WILL LAPSE INTO PROTECTIONISM THAN AT ANY TIME IN THE PAST FORTY YEARS." DENMAN SAID THE COMMISSION PAPER WAS DESIGNED TO DRAW THE COUNCIL'S ATTENTION TO THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE ZENITH AND US STEEL COURT CASES. HE SAID HAFERKAMP WOULD REPORT IN GENERAL TERMS TO THE COUNCIL ON THE PROGRESS MADE IN RECENT DISCUSSIONS WITH THE US, WOULD INFORM MINISTERS OF THE JAN 15 TIMETABLE, AND WOULD REFER IN PASSING TO THE COMMISSION MEMORANDUM WHICH WAS FOR THE COUNCIL'S INFORMATION. THEY HOPED TO AVOID DISCUSSION OF THE MTN IN THE COUNCIL AND THOUGHT IT LIKELY THAT NOTHING MORE WOULD HAPPEN THAN THAT THE CHAIRMAN WOULD TAKE NOTE OF HAFERKAMP'S STATEMENT. HINTON

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Sent Date: 22-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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Disposition History: n/a
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